

**Alabama Medicaid DUR Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**October 26, 2005**

**Attendees:** Rob Colburn, Tiffany Minnifield, Christina Daniels, Rhonda Hardin, Kevin Green, Kevin Royal, Paula Thompson, Bernie Olin, John Searcy, Clemice Hurst, Kelli Littlejohn, Steven Rostand

**Members Absent:** Darin Elliott, Greer Geiger, Jimmy Jackson

Rob Colburn, new Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Kelli Littlejohn announced that the meeting would proceed with the review of criteria, but the vote would be delayed until the next meeting, due to lack of quorum at this meeting.

**Review and Adoption of Minutes of July 13, 2005 meeting:** Rob Colburn asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the July 13, 2005, meeting. No changes or additions were brought to the attention of the Board. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Paula Thompson so moved and Kevin Green seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote with no audible dissenters. The minutes were adopted as written.

Tiffany Minnifield introduced new DUR Board members: Kevin Royal, M.D., and Bernie Olin, Pharm.D.

**DUR Update:** Christina Daniels began the DUR update by reviewing the following reports: Monthly PAs and Overrides, PAs and Overrides by Source, Monthly Help Desk Reports and PA Response Time Ratio Reports for July and August 2005. She reminded the Board that HID is required to have a response time of less than 24 hours for all PAs and a response time of less than eight hours for 75% of PAs. She reported the time requirement was met for 91.52% in July and 89.81% in August. Christina noted that emergency brand early refill approvals were up in the month of July, likely due to the effects of hurricane Dennis. She reminded the Board that online PA classes include ADHD agents, antidepressant agents, antihyperlipidemics, antihypertensives, Alzheimer's agents, antihistamines, anxiolytic/sedative/hypnotics, diabetic agents, estrogens, intranasal corticosteroids, narcotic analgesics, and sustained release opioids. Kevin Green referred to the August report and asked about maximum allowable cost (MAC). A discussion regarding the MAC edit followed.

**Quarterly Reports:** Christina Daniels briefly reviewed the Alabama Medicaid Program Summary reports for the quarters January 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005 and April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. Christina then presented the Cost Management Analysis reports. She noted a relatively small increase in cost per claim for July 2004 through June 2005: \$2.17. She stated that the difference is small compared to the change one might see

in cost in the private sector. The last report given was the Drug Analysis for the second quarter of 2005. Christina stated that based on total claims count, generic multi-source utilization is at approximately 60%. This number is up due to increased availability of generics and because of Alabama's four brand per month limit.

**DUR Overview:** Christina Daniels presented an overview of DUR to orient new members to the process. She referred to color slides, copies of which were supplied in the DUR packet.

**Intervention Activity Report:** Christina Daniels reported the RDUR Intervention for second quarter 2005 was osteoporosis. She noted that the date of intervention was July 19, 2005. She reported 421 profiles reviewed, 343 cases identified, 366 letters generated, 48 letters deleted in QA, and 318 letters sent. Of those 318 letters sent, 59 were attributed to drug/disease interaction, 43 to drug/drug conflicts, 169 to clinical appropriateness, and 47 to therapeutic duplication. There were 309 unique recipients identified.

**Proposed Criteria:** Christina Daniels requested that the Board continue with tablet splitting and dose optimization criteria for the next intervention cycle. There were 41 sets of criteria presented. Due to the number of members absent, voting on criteria was tabled and will take place at the next meeting. Kevin Green asked that a report indicating the top 25 drugs by cost be included in the next DUR packet.

**Medicaid Update:** Kelli Littlejohn presented a brief Medicaid update. She reminded the Board that estrogens and intranasal corticosteroids were introduced into the electronic PA system on August 15. On September 9, Medicaid added an edit to ensure that the PA will be linked to the patient, not to the prescriber, pharmacy, NDC or package size. On September 15, Medicaid began to allow up to 11 refills on non-controlled substances. Synagis approvals began on October 1, 2005. The quarterly update to the PDL was also effective October 1. The Alabama P & T Committee met on October 12. Kelli reported that on November 1, Medicaid will no longer cover branded cough and cold products. Medicaid will post a complete list of generic cough and cold products on their website within the next couple of weeks. Kelli reported that due to recent hurricanes, the Alabama Medicaid Agency has worked closely with other states to make sure that Medicaid recipients received the care needed. Alabama Medicaid took the lead on several important issues to assist those recipients. Measures to assist the effort included drafting temporary abbreviated applications for providers to become Alabama providers and fill prescriptions for recipients. Rob Colburn asked how the hurricanes have affected the budget. Kelli reported that Alabama received approval of an 1115 waiver from CMS to cover Katrina evacuees' uncompensated care.

Bakeba Thomas presented a brief update on the P & T Committee. She advised the DUR Board that the P & T Committee met on October 12 at the Capitol auditorium. The committee reviewed three new drug classes: macrolides, EENT preparations, and vasoconstrictors. They reviewed four new product indications and re-reviewed classes currently on the PDL. Bakeba stated that theoretically, the P & T Committee would review all classes on the PDL annually. Bakeba reported one issue with skeletal muscle

relaxants. It was recommended that Soma, or its generic, be monitored for potential abuse. The committee chose to table the issue until next meeting. More information on abuse will be collected and made available at the December meeting. A.Z. Holloway was selected to replace Jimmy Clark as Vice Chair beginning in December. The next P & T Committee meeting will be held December 14, at 9:00 am in the Capitol auditorium.

Kelli Littlejohn stated that it is possible that the DUR Board will have a recommendation from the P & T Committee to review carisoprodol.

Rob Colburn asked for dates for the next meeting. Kelli Littlejohn stated that the Agency is awaiting MASA recommendations for two DUR Board members. Kelli recommended the meeting be held in late January or early February due to MMA. A brief discussion followed regarding most suitable dates. A suggestion was made to hold the next meeting on January 25, 2006. Bernie Olin so moved and Paula Thompson seconded the motion.

Rob Colburn asked for any additional items of business. There were none. The next meeting will be held January 25, 2006. There being no further business brought to the Board's attention, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christina Daniels, PharmD*

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